

June 12, 2025

Global Appraisal of Individual Needs Short Screener (GAIN-SS)

- What** GAIN-SS is a web-based assessment screening tool for Mental Health and Substance Use disorders.
- Who** Ryan White subrecipients funded for Medical Case Management (MCM) and Non-Medical Case Management (NMCM) are required to screen customers using the GAIN-SS or a HAHSTA approved alternate screening tool.
- When** Ryan White subrecipients funded for Medical Case Management and Non-Medical Case Management are to screen customers at intake using the GAIN-SS or a HAHSTA approved alternate screening tool. Quarterly, Ryan White program officers will share with their assigned subrecipient a list of active users for the quarter. This quarterly review is used to ensure subrecipient use of the GAIN-SS tool and to verify if inactive user accounts need to be deactivated.
- Where** The GAIN-SS tool can be administered to customers online via the Chestnut Systems website: <http://www.gainabs.org/>
- Why** The purpose of using the GAIN-SS tool in general populations is to identify customers who would be flagged as having one or more behavioral health disorders and refer them for treatment. GAIN-SS screens out those without behavioral health disorders. It serves as a quality assurance tool that can be used with minimal training or direct supervision. GAIN-SS serves as a periodic measure of change over time in behavioral health. It is available for self- or staff-administration with paper and pen, on an electronic system, or on the web. GAIN-SS is easily converted to a scannable form or incorporated into existing systems.
- How** To gain access, Ryan White subrecipients must submit the ABS User form for GAIN-SS to their program officer. To obtain the form subrecipients must contact their assigned program officer. There are a maximum of two user accounts that can be created per subrecipient. When subrecipient staff with an active GAIN-SS user account departs the organization, the subrecipient must notify HAHSTA to deactivate the user account.

Current Approved Alternate Screening Tools

- PHQ9
- PHQ2

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. *Is this the only screening tool that can be used?*
No, subrecipients can apply for a waiver to get approval to use an alternate screening tool.
2. *What are the approved alternate screening tools?*
See “Current Approved Alternate Screening Tools” list above.
3. *How do I get a waiver?*
To obtain a waiver, subrecipients must submit a written request to their program officer on letterhead noting the request and attaching the proposed alternate screening tool.
4. Training: Staff of subrecipients must receive training before the use of GAIN-SS by connecting to the self-paced GAIN-SS training at Effi Berry Institute:
[DC Health Ryan White Service Standards GAIN-SS Training – Effi Barry Training Institute](#)